Ms. Doherty

English 12

Alice Bliss

Page 100

Angie walks through the house turning out the lights before she heads upstairs to her bedroom. She reaches under the pillow and pulls out Matt’s latest letter:

*You’ve never seen the moon like it is here. Because the base is blacked out for security reasons and there’s so little electricity anywhere else, it’s truly dark. I don’t know if you can experience this kind of darkness in the U.S. anymore. Whenever I’m out walking across the base-for a meeting, for a meal--I’m so aware of the night sky. And looking up, Angie, looking up kind of lifts you up, you know? Almost like praying or wishing or hitching your wagon to a star. That’s an old time phrase, something my dad would say. But just sensing that mystery feels like a kind of prayer to me, even though you know I’m not much for prayers and all that.*

Angie tries to think of the last time she really paid attention to the night sky. Tonight, maybe, out at the lake in Eddie’s convertible. But did she really see it? Or was she all caught up, as usual, in talking or arguing or giving Eddie advice he doesn’t want and never heeds? When was the last time she walked beneath the moon, or sang, or danced, or held Matt in her arms under a starlit sky? Here she is, with every freedom and every convenience and she doesn’t have time to notice the moon. And there’s Matt, doing whatever it is he can’t tell her about every day, reveling in the night sky.

My *soul lifts up*, she thinks. My *soul lifts up* … Where did that phrase come from and why is it popping into her head now? The moon, the sky, the possibility of the soul, the miles, the oceans, Matt, trying not to worry, getting through the days believing he’ll come home, believing he’ll be okay. It’s all a prayer, she realizes, every breath, every day. Come home to me. Come home (100).

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| **What’s the big idea?** |

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| **What’s the author’s purpose?** |

**How (how does the author accomplish her big idea? Style=(Author’s writing style):**

This section focuses on the following:

* Diction
* Connotation
* Syntax
* Tone
* Dialogue
* Mood
* Any other literary devices

Identify the technique(s) and explain its (their) effect here:

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| Technique: | Example: | Effect: |
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